

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 El Club Mexicano Pesticide - Removal Polrep  
 Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region IV

**Subject:** POLREP #3  
 Final  
 El Club Mexicano Pesticide  
  
 Asheboro, NC  
 Latitude: 35.7822950 Longitude: -79.8157219

**To:** Jim Webster, USEPA R4 ERRB  
 Steve Lewis, NCDENR

**From:** Kenneth Rhame, OSC

**Date:** 3/24/2015

**Reporting Period:** 8/13/2014 to 12/1/2014

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	<b>Contract Number:</b>	
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	
<b>Response Authority:</b> CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Emergency
<b>Response Lead:</b> PRP	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b> Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b> 8/12/2014	<b>Start Date:</b>	8/12/2014
<b>Demob Date:</b> 12/1/2014	<b>Completion Date:</b>	12/1/2014
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>	<b>State Notification:</b>	
<b>FPN#:</b>	<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Emergency Response

1.1.2 Site Description

Mexican Food Import Company

1.1.2.1 Location

El Club Mexicano  
 420 Waketa Drive  
 Asheboro, NC 27203

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

Reportedly a release of restricted use pesticide (aluminum phosphide fumigant tablets and off the shelf

fumigant products) in a food distribution facility. Eighteen employees were hospitalized for medical treatment due to exposure.

### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

The Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) hired Highland Environmental to conduct air monitoring, air sampling and to collect wipe samples from El Club Mexicano to demonstrate that the building was safe for reoccupancy and use.

A Sampling Plan was created and disseminated to all the involved agencies for review.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

The EPA received a call from North Carolina Emergency Management and Randolph County Emergency Management on August 12, 2014, reporting an incident involving a intentional pesticide release in a facility that imports food (peppers, spices and candy) from Mexico.

The packaging and distribution company (El Club Mexicano) reportedly had problems with moths infesting their products. The food being imported would have larvae imbedded inside. By the time the product reached the U.S. and was distributed, customers complained of moths flying out of the product packaging when opened. This reportedly prompted the company to treat the facility with several fumigants. The facility used a aluminum phosphide fumigant beleived to have been imported from Central or South America, and several off the shelf bug bomb products. The facility was fumigated and closed up over the weekend, when employees returned to work on Monday 18 employees were sent to the hospital after being exposed.

The EPA is coordinating with the Randolph County Emergency Management, Randolph County Health Department, NC Public Health and Human Services, NC Department of Agriculture Pesticides and Food and Drug Division.

#### **2.1.2 Response Actions to Date**

A Sampling Analysis Plan was created and distributed to all agencies involved for review.

Air monitoring, Air Sampling and Wipe Sampling was conducted.

The data was shared with North Carolina Pubic Health and Randolph County Health Department.

After review of the data and consultation with all agencies, the building was released by the Randolph County Health Director for reoccupancy.

#### **2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)**

the PRP is El Club Mexicano

#### **2.1.4 Progress Metrics**

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

### **2.2 Planning Section**

#### **2.2.1 Anticipated Activities**

Nothing Furhter

#### **2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities**

Nothing Further

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

No additional anticipated actions by EPA

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

#### **2.3 Logistics Section**

No information available at this time.

#### **2.4 Finance Section**

No information available at this time.

#### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

No information available at this time.

### **3. Participating Entities**

No information available at this time.

### **4. Personnel On Site**

No information available at this time.

### **5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time.

### **6. Additional sources of information**

No information available at this time.

### **7. Situational Reference Materials**

No information available at this time.

